

AGENDA
WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY
REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 17, 2003

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2003 MEETING

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS & CONFIRMATIONS:

Appointment of Joe W. Farmer to the Lake, Obion and Weakley County Solid Waste Board.

REPORTS:

Trustee's Report

General Fund Report

Highway Department Report

School Department Report

Solid Waste Report

Finance, Ways and Means Committee Report - Dick Phebus, Chairman

Financial Management Committee Report - Roger Stewart, Chairman

Health, Education and Welfare Report - Jimmy Westbrook, Chairman

Personnel Committee Report - John Salmon, Chairman

Public Safety Committee Report - Tommy Hunt, Chairman

Public Works Committee Report - David Rook, Chairman

Nursing Home Committee Report - Mac Buckley, Chairman; David McBride, Administrator

Agricultural Extension Service Report - Jeff Lannom, Extension Director

State of the County Address - Ron Gifford, County Executive

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2003-24 - Resolution Authorizing the Sheriff to House Weakley County Prisoners in Obion County and Obion County Prisoners in Weakley County.

Resolution No. 2003-25 - Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County General Fund - Register of Deeds Computer System.

Resolution No. 2003-26 - Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County General Fund - CDBG Grant.

Resolution No. 2003-27 - Resolution Adopting Regulations Governing the Health and Safety Standards of Residential and Non-residential Properties.

Resolution No. 2003-28 - Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Purpose School Fund for the FY Ending June 30, 2003.

Resolution No. 2003-29 - Resolution to Urge the General Assembly to Allow Counties to operate Asphalt Plants.

Miscellaneous announcements and statements

Election of Notaries Public

ADJOURNMENT

WEAKLEY COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY MEETING

MARCH 17, 2003

The Weakley County Legislative Body met on March 17, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commission Room at the Weakley County Courthouse. County Executive Ron Gifford called the Meeting to order and Commissioner Wright gave the invocation. All members present gave the pledge to the Flag.

County Clerk Pat Scarbrough called the roll with 17 members present and one member, Bob Gardner, was absent.

County Executive Gifford asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes for the January 21, 2003 meeting. Commissioner Buckley made a motion and Commissioner Salmon placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes carried and none was opposed. The Minutes of the January 21, 2003 meeting were approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

There was not any special recognition.

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS:

The County Executive moved to the appointment for the Lake, Obion and Weakley County Solid Waste Board. County Executive commented that each of the members had before them a letter recommending Joe W. Farmer for this appointment. Commissioner Barner made a motion and Commissioner Stewart placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes carried and none was opposed. The appointment was confirmed for a six-year term.

Letters of recommendation for Bennie Castleman and Tim McCollum were sent to the commission, but on a closer look, these two members are still within their elected terms.

County Executive Gifford recognized Commissioner Phebus. Commissioner Phebus commented that he did not have a problem with Joe W. Farmer, Bennie Castleman or Tim McCollum, but felt that a member of the commission should be appointed to serve on this board. County Executive commented that Joe W. Farmer had been the Chairman of this Board of which he had done a good job and felt that he should continue to serve for this next term.

REPORTS:

The Trustee's Report, General Fund Report, Highway Department Report, School Department Reports and Solid Waste Reports were included in the packets distributed to each of the Commissioners.

County Executive Gifford recognized Commissioner Phebus. Commissioner Phebus commented that the President of the United States would be giving a speech tonight at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Phebus felt that some of the Commission would like to be able to hear this speech. Commissioner Phebus made a motion to move the County Reports, miscellaneous remarks, etc. to the end of the Agenda and move directly to the New Business. County Executive Gifford stated that this would constitute a motion to suspend the rules. Commissioner Phebus made a motion to suspend the rules and Commissioner Rook placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes carried and none was opposed. Motion to suspend the rules carried. County Executive Gifford asked Commissioner Phebus if his motion was to move to New Business or to

Unfinished Business. Commissioner Phebus commented that the Motion was to move to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

County Executive Gifford moved to New Business.

County Executive Gifford recognized Commissioner Phebus. Commissioner Phebus made a motion to consider Resolution 2003-24, 2003-25, 2003-26 and 2003-28 collectively. He commented that each of these Resolutions could be discussed individually but considered collectively. Commissioner Sinclair placed a second to the motion. Discussion was called and the question was called. A voice vote was taken and the ayes carried and none was opposed. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-24: Resolution Authorizing the Sheriff to House Weakley County Prisoners in Obion County and Obion County Prisoners in Weakley County.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-25: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County General Fund – Register of Deeds Computer System.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-26: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the Weakley County General Fund – CDBG Grant.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-28: Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendments to the General Purpose School Fund for the FY Ending June 30, 2003.

Commissioner Phebus made a motion to adopt Resolutions 2003-24, 2003-25, 2003-26, and 2003-28. Commissioner Wright placed a second. Committee Reports from the Finance Ways and Means was given by Commissioner Phebus and Resolutions 2003-25, 2003-26 and 2003-28 passed this committee unanimously. Commissioner Hunt stated that Resolution 2003-24 and 2003-26 passed the Public Safety Committee unanimously. Discussion was called on the above Resolutions. Commissioner Page questioned on Resolution 2003-25 the designated funds that was allocated for purchase of equipment and Commissioner Phebus commented that the funds would have to be used for a computer purchase. There being no further discussion the question was called and the County Clerk, Pat Scarbrough, called the roll with 17 ayes and 1 absent. Resolutions 2003-24, 2003-25, 2003-26 and 2003-28 carried.

RESOLUTION 2003-27: Resolution Adopting Regulations Governing the Health and Safety Standards of Residential and Non-residential Properties.

County Executive Gifford called for a Committee Report from Commissioner Westbrook's, Health, Education and Welfare Committee. Commissioner Westbrook commented that there has been several complaints by citizens that had been brought before this Body for quite some time. Abandoned vehicles (which this does not address), and abandoned manufactured houses, that has been causing a health problem in the county due to rats, etc. Commissioner Westbrook commented that it would be impossible to exaggerate how bad the situation was in the area that he toured. There has been concern expressed in the Sidonia area, Chicken Road area, and Sand Hill Road area. Commissioner Westbrook went on to comment that there were three options available, one would be to go to Countywide zoning (which has not been popular in the past), do nothing, or the Legislature has passed an act that would allow us to implement some control as outlined in this Resolution. Commissioner Westbrook made a motion to adopt Resolution 2003-27. Commissioner Page placed a second to the motion. Discussion was called and County Executive Gifford clarified that the Sheriff's Department would be responsible for

enforcement and Commissioner Westbrook commented that it would be the Sheriff or his designee. Commissioner Phebus commented that it did not designate when the appointments would take place, however Commissioner Phebus urged the County Executive or the person that will appoint the members to the board to do so by the next Legislative Body Meeting. County Executive Gifford commented that he would like for the appointments to be primarily commissioners. Commissioner Rook questioned if this would be a five-member committee, and Commissioner Westbrook commented that this was not a standing committee of the County Commission. Question was called and the County Clerk called the roll with 17 ayes and one absent. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2003-29: Resolution to Urge the General Assembly to Allow Counties to operate Asphalt Plants.

The Committee Report from the Public Works Chairman, Commissioner Rook, was called for, and Commissioner Rook stated that it passed his committee unanimously. Commissioner Rook made a motion to place this resolution on the floor. Commissioner Hunt placed a second. Discussion was called and the question. County Clerk Scarbrough called the roll with 17 ayes and one absent. The Motion carried.

County Executive Gifford called for any other New Business. There being none, the County Executive moved to the next item on the Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 2003-11:

This resolution deals with the S.R.O. Program. This resolution was originally brought before the Commission at the November 25, 2002 meeting. At this meeting they took out Section 1, therefore removing the Budget and amended the Resolution. At this time, this resolution is back before the Commission without a Budget. County Executive Gifford read a letter before the Commission from the City of Martin, and Mayor Randy Brundige. This letter supports the School Resource Officer Program and urged the County Commission to accept the Grant Funding. The City of Martin has seen very positive results from all the Martin Schools since the inception of the S.R.O. Program four years ago. The letter went on to say that they felt that all of Weakley County Schools would greatly benefit from the addition of the S.R.O. Program in every School.

County Executive Gifford called for a Motion to accept and fund the grant. Commissioner Baltz made a motion and Commissioner Rich placed a second. Discussion was called. Commissioner Barner commented on the amount of taxes that could be placed on the people of Weakley County. Commissioner Phebus asked that Sheriff Wilson report to the Finance Ways and Means Committee with an anticipated expenditure that would be for the next several years. Sheriff Wilson reported with figures for six officers, in the amount of \$223,455 for 2003-04, the County would be obligated for \$18,600. For the year of 2004-05 the amount would be \$232,600 and the County would be obligated for \$6,400. For the third year the grant called for \$246,127 and the County obligation would be \$6,400 for 2005-06. The Fourth year the County would be obligated for the full funding in the amount of \$246,127. This would include funding for six officers. If the Commission accepts the Grant the County would be obligated for the fourth year and after the fourth year the Program could be dropped. Funding for nine officers, would include the three officers in Martin, and the Grant total obligation would be \$359,000 plus, the County's obligation for the first year would be \$154,000. The Second year would be \$129,000 and \$129,000 for the third year. The Fourth year would be \$369,000 that the county would be obligated to fund for at least this one year. Commissioner Phebus commented that Mayor Brundige's letter to the Commission indicated that the

City of Martin would be willing to continue to fund the portion that the County would owe for their three officers for the next three years of the Grant. At the conclusion of the Grant, the County would be obligated for the full amount of \$369,000 for all nine officers.

Commissioner Phebus commented that this Resolution failed in the Finance Ways and Means Committee. Commissioner Hunt commented that Resolution also failed the Public Safety Committee.

Commissioner Owen commented that Commissioner Phebus, Finance Ways and Means Chairman had passed out figures for current year funding that was approximately \$800,000 short. This would be approximately twenty-five to twenty-six cents increase in taxes to stay the same. Commissioner Owen commented that Commissioner Phebus had requested that the Department Heads submit a budget in April, with a 10 percent reduction and a 20 percent reduction. Commissioner Owen commented that personally, if the Department Heads have to cut their budgets a minimum of ten percent, then it would be irresponsible to vote to Raise Taxes in a year that decreases are being made, with the possibility of other people losing their jobs in the County.

Commissioner Rich, commented that the Commission might look down the road at other options, i.e., raise the wheel tax and earmark the additional funds for this program. She requested that the Commission consider the children.

Commissioner Phebus added that the City of Martin has had this Program going on four years, and that it has been a success. Several of the people in Martin have contacted Commissioner Phebus and stated that this is a popular program and that more than likely the City of Martin will continue to fund this Program. If the commission votes to adopt this program, then the commission will be adding an additional ten to twelve cent property increase for the City Martin for a Program that they are already funding.

Commissioner Baltz commented that when you take the Ten Commandments out, then you put the Police in. A lot of hard work has gone into this Grant and if we do not take this Grant, there is a possibility that the County will not see another federal grant come to Weakley County. Commissioner Baltz commented that the Commission might consider four officers and not six.

Commissioner Salmon commented that there has been several meetings concerning this program, and that one of the major benefits was having a police car at the school. He encouraged the Committee to consider as an alternative to this program, placing Police Cars at the Schools, and that the Cities might offer to help by sending an officer to the schools and spend some time at the schools.

Commissioner Buckley commented that he has seen this Program work, and that it does a great job, but the point is, do we want to raise taxes, do we want to cut services, or do we want to vote this program down. This program can not be funded without tax increase and or cutting services.

Question was called and the County Clerk called the roll with 7 ayes, 10 nays, and one absent. The Motion Failed.

County Executive Gifford called for any other Unfinished Business. There was not any other unfinished business to go before the Commission and the County Executive moved to the next item on the agenda.

REPORTS:

County Executive Gifford called for any Standing Committee Reports.

Copies of the Weakley County Nursing Home was handed out by Commissioner Buckley.

Jeff Lannom, Extension Director, mailed the Agricultural Extension Service Report; Mr. Lannom was not present for the meeting.

There was not an Emergency Management and Communication Report, and Mr. David McAlpin Director, was not present. Mrs. Beth Forrester stated that they did not have anything to report.

County Executive Gifford gave the Ninth State of the County Address. He talked about the nine percent cut from the State in funding and a fifteen percent cut to the Juvenile Office Grant. The Nation is on a War Footing, with family and friends involved. The economy has not been very good for the last couple of years, but this County Commission and the previous Commission have not voted to raise taxes. Our Finance Ways and Means Committee have requested the Department Heads to cut 10 percent and also to take a look at a 20 percent cuts from their budgets. The County Commission is faced with raising taxes to make up the lost revenue from cuts made by the State to us and also potential loss of Federal Funds, or cut services which in turn could mean people losing their jobs. There has not been any talk of Revenue Reform in Nashville for this budget year. In conclusion, County Executive Gifford commented that he has enjoyed working with this Commission and that all of the Commission has worked hard at representing the people of Weakley County.

County Executive Gifford called for a motion to accept the Reports and Commissioner Sinclair placed the motion. Commissioner Stewart placed a second. A voice vote was taken with the ayes carrying and none was opposed the Reports were accepted.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STATEMENTS:

County Executive Gifford called for any miscellaneous announcements and statements, there being none the commission moved to the next item on the agenda.


NOTARIES PUBLIC:

The Commission had a list before them of 14 individuals. Commissioner Buckley placed a motion and Commissioner Hunt placed a second. A voice vote was taken and the ayes carried with none opposed. The Notaries Public List was approved.

Commissioner Barner was recognized and he commented upon the article that had been in the paper concerning the sunshine laws.

County Executive Gifford called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stewart placed the motion and Commissioner Phebus placed the second. A voice vote was taken with the ayes carrying and the Commission Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

ATTEST:


Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk